

# Austin's Largest Live Oak Tree



**How Big  
Is It?**

**258 Inch  
(or 21.5 Feet)  
Circumference  
at Breast Height  
of 4.5 Feet**

**Almost 7  
Feet Diameter**





# Current Abandoned Structure Next to Tree



# How Old Is It?

- Estimated to be 500 years old from a 1970's core sample
- Daily Texan Article – January 15, 1980

## 'Tree Lady' saves Austin shade

By PAMELA BROWN

With Austin's rapid growth rate there is the danger that esthetic considerations will get thrown by the wayside, and it is for this reason a former City Council member has named this week "Think Trees" week in Austin.

"The idea of establishing a campaign to protect trees rather than a city ordinance is psychological," Margaret Hofmann said Monday. "As a City Council member I learned how people hate ordinances."

A City Parks and Recreation Department booklet called the "Tree Registry," which lists the oldest and largest trees in Austin, was compiled in 1976 by Hofmann. She launched the "Think Trees" campaign in 1974.

A yearly campaign to protect Austin's trees, Hofmann explained, will make people think about trees and care about saving and protecting them. "In a campaign we

can work with people rather than against them," Hofmann said.

Although there is no tree ordinance in Austin to protect trees, the value of at least one tree has not gone unrecognized. Austin's largest live oak tree is on the east side of U.S. Highway 183 at Bolm Road amid heavy industry.

The tree's trunk measures 18 feet in circumference and has branches extending more than 25 feet. Texas Industries Inc. leases the land on which the tree stands from Capitol Aggregates Inc. and protects the live oak.

"We leased this land from a competitor and the contract stipulated that we weren't to open an asphalt plant which could hurt the tree," explained TXI sales manager Jim Spencer. "What was not written into the contract, but was told us, was, 'That tree better not ever get sick!'"

TXI examines the condition of the tree each year. Though

no special care has been required in the past, the tree was sprayed for worms last fall, Spencer said.

"Although the live oak has the largest circumference of all the trees in Austin, we can't be sure that it is the oldest tree," Hofmann said. "The fact that the circumference is so large only tells us that the tree is in fertile ground. A core sample in which you count the tree's rings determines the tree's age," she added.

A core sample of the live oak completed a few years ago showed the tree to be about 500 years old.

Hofmann, who has earned the unofficial nickname the "tree lady," said that only those trees lucky enough to escape the bulldozers grow very big.

"There are zoning ordinances to protect buildings 80 years old, but people think nothing of bulldozing down trees that are hundreds and

hundreds of years old," Hofmann said.

Hofmann began her campaign because "trees aren't only beautiful, but they are valuable for other reasons too. They offer shade in summer, drop their leaves in winter to let the sun show through and

are a source of oxygen."

"Think Trees" week ends Friday with the celebration of Arbor Day. This day of tree planting is always the third Friday of January because the trees are dormant and less likely to be harmed by transplanting.

### *Campus News in Brief*

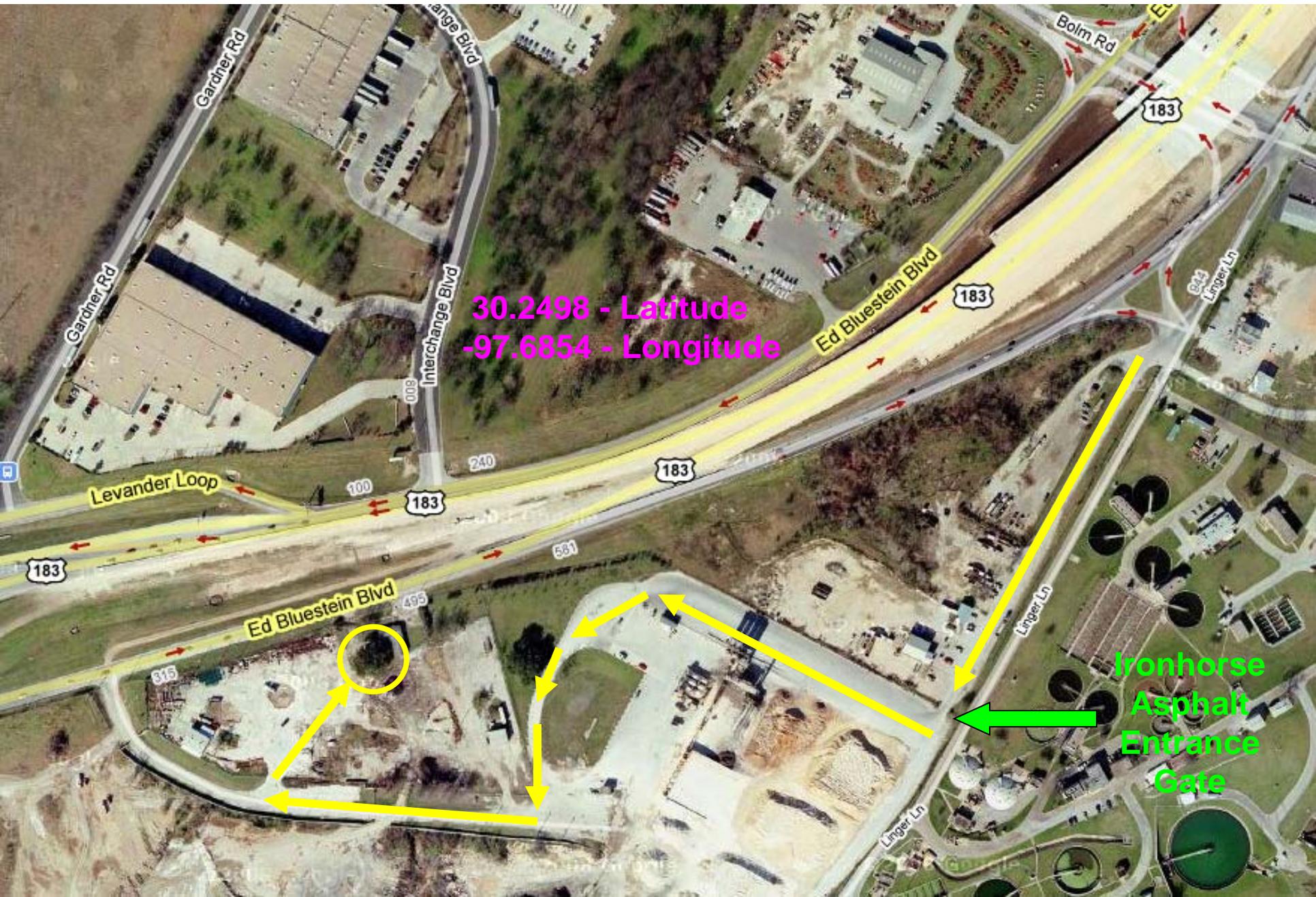
## *CNIB deadline set*

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING DEADLINES FOR SUBMITTING CAMPUS NEWS IN BRIEF: The deadline for submitting items to Campus News In Brief is 2 p.m. the day before publication, with the exception of the Monday issue. THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING CAMPUS NEWS IN BRIEF FOR THE MONDAY ISSUE IS 2 P.M. THURSDAY. NO EXCEPTIONS WILL BE MADE.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

JESTER CENTER AND THE MEN'S RESIDENCE HALLS announce that Tuesday is the last day to submit applications for resident assistant positions for the 1980-81 school year. Completed applications should be turned in to the Jester Center business office by 4:45 p.m. RASAL LEARNING SERVICES invites students to enroll in its free, four-week informal classes.

# Where Is It? South Side of 183 Between Bolm and Gardner Roads



30.2498 - Latitude  
-97.6854 - Longitude

Ironhorse  
Asphalt  
Entrance  
Gate

# Who Owns the Property?

- Travis County Central Appraisal District:
  - Property ID Number of 187760
  - 71.35 acre property
- APAC Texas, Inc.  
P.O. Box 55038  
Lexington, Kentucky 40555-5038
- APAC-Texas website: <http://apac-texas.com/>
- Oldcastle Materials is the parent company:  
[http://www.oldcastlematerials.com/central\\_west.htm](http://www.oldcastlematerials.com/central_west.htm)

# What is Being Proposed?

- The largest Live Oak tree in Austin should have its own pocket park for residents to enjoy.
- Enough acreage should be purchased to cover the entire root zone of this magnificent tree.
- The purchased land should include the existing abandoned structure that would then be torn down.
- Water and electric utilities probably exist for this structure.
- The construction debris and large piles of asphalt waste immediately adjacent to the tree should be removed either by the current owner or the City.
- Necessary pruning and root zone maintenance would be conducted soon after debris removal and acquisition by the City.